are supposed to protect are of the opinion that (i) about 77 per cent are less trust working, (ii) about 84 per cent are open to political interference, (iii) 80 per cent say corruption is a problem with the policy; and (iv) 75 per cent would think twice before filing FIR; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to improve the opinion of the people about the police force in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) People's perception about police vary. The source of the survey cited is not known. However, Government is concerned about improving the image of the police force and its accountability to the rule of law. Government has taken an initiative to set up a Review Committee on police reforms which has made several recommendations for making the police efficient, responsive and courteous. Emphasis is being placed on better standards of recruitment and training. Measures have been recommended for making the police professional and answerable to law, but responsive and courteous to citizens. These recommendations have been sent to the State Governments for implementation. Government has also set up a Committee of experts to draft a new Police Act which will formulate statutory provisions for *inter-alia* ensuring responsiveness and sensitivity of the police towards the public, especially the weaker and vulnerable sections, and accountability to the rule of law.

Amendments in Protection of Human Rights Act

213. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to bring in amendments to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, to incorporate various changes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had received recommendations from various corners to make changes in the Bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The Government has introduced a Bill the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2005 in Rajya Sabha on 8.12.2005 which *inter-alia* seeks to:

(i) clarify that the Chairpersons of NHRC and State Human Rights Commission (SHRCs) are distinct from the Member of the respective Commissions;

(ii) make judges of the Supreme Court with at least three years service, be eligible for appointment as Chairperson of the NHRC;

(iii) make judges of the High Courts with at least five years of service eligible for appointment as Chairperson of an SHRC; and a District Judge with at least seven years of experience in that capacity to be a Member of the SHRC;

(iv) enable the NHRC to transfer complaints received by it to the concerned SHRC;

(v) enable the NHRC to visit any jail or other institutions without prior intimation to the State Government;

(vi) enable the Chairperson and Members of the NHRC to address their resignations in writing to the President of India and the Chairperson and Members of an SHRC to the Governor of the State concerned;

(vii) enable the NHRC and SHRCs to make interim recommendations during an inquiry;

(viii) empower the NHRC and its Chairperson to delegate certain powers and functions of the Commission to the Secretary General of the NHRC except judicial functions and rule making powers under Clause 18 of the proposed Bill;

(ix) provide that the Chairperson of the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes shall be deemed to be Members of the NHRC;

(x) enable the Central Government to notify future international covenants and conventions to which the Act would be applicable.